

Application No.: 09/748,883
Amendment Dated September 24, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated: August 29, 2003

Attorney Docket No.: FUK-80

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-14 (canceled)

15 (currently amended): A welded product produced using
[[the]] a welding method for materials to be welded which are
subjected to fluoride passivation treatment, wherein, when
materials to be welded, comprising the steps of:

adding hydrogen to a gas (back shield gas) flowing through
the materials to be welded; and

welding stainless steel which is subjected to fluoride
passivation treatment. in accordance with Claim 1.

16 (canceled)

17 (currently amended): [[A]] The welded product of claim 15,
the welding method used to produce the welded product further
comprising the step of:

heating at least the welded part after welding and flowing a
gas containing fluorine gas through the interior of said parts. 7
produced in accordance with the welding method of Claim 16.

18 (currently amended): A welding product produced using
[[the]] a welding method for materials to be welded which are
subjected to a fluoride passivation treatment, comprising the
steps of:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

5 supplying stainless steel subjected to fluoride passivation
treatment wherein the thickness of a fluoride passivated film in
a prespecified range from butt end surfaces of members to be
welded is set to 10 nm or less; and

welding stainless steel. in accordance with Claim 9.

19 (currently amended): [[A]] The welding product of claim
18, the welding method used to produce the welding product
further comprising the step of:

5 immersing a region of at least 5 mm from said butt end
surfaces of said materials to be welded in an aqueous solution
containing hydrofluoric acid and hydrogen peroxide, welding being
subsequently conducted relative to said step of immersing.

produced using the welding method in accordance with Claim 10.

20 (currently amended): [[A]] The welding product of claim
18, the welding method used to produce the welded product further
comprising the step of:

5 immersing a region of at least 5 mm from said butt end
surfaces of said materials to be welded for a period of 5 minutes
or more in hot water within a range of 60 - 90°C removing a film,
said step of welding being subsequently conducted upon removing

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

~~said film. produced using the welding method in accordance with
Claim 14.~~

21-23 (canceled)

24 (currently amended): [[A]] The welded product of claim 18,
the welding method used to produce the welded product further
comprising the step of:

heating at least the welded part after welding and flowing a
gas containing fluorine gas through the interior of said parts. 7
~~produced in accordance with the welding method of Claim 21.~~

25 (currently amended): [[A]] The welded product of claim 19,
the welding method used to produce the welded product further
comprising the step of:

heating at least the welded part after welding and flowing a
gas containing fluorine gas through the interior of said parts. 7
~~produced in accordance with the welding method of Claim 22.~~

26 (currently amended): [[A]] The welded product of claim 20,
the welding method used to produce the welded product further
comprising the step of:

Application No.: 09/748,883
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Attorney Docket No.: FUK-80

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

heating at least the welded part after welding and flowing a
5 gas containing fluorine gas through the interior of said parts. 7
~~produced in accordance with the welding method of Claim 23.~~